

Appl. No. 09/902,047
Atty. Docket No. CM2394M
Amdt. dated 11/19/2003
Reply to Office Action of 6/23/03
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (*canceled*)

Claim 11 (*currently amended*): A process for coating detergent tablets with a dicarboxylic acid, wherein said dicarboxylic acid is retarded from discoloring, said process comprising:

- (a) heating a mixture comprising water, a dicarboxylic acid and a member selected from the group consisting of ion exchange resins, chelants, and mixtures thereof, to a temperature above ~~its~~ the melting point of said dicarboxylic acid; and
- ~~(b) adding water to said dicarboxylic acid; and~~
- (b) ~~(c)~~ applying the mixture dicarboxylic acid to the tablets ~~tablet~~.

12. (*previously presented*) A process according to Claim 11 wherein the dicarboxylic acid is selected from C₂-C₁₃ dicarboxylic acids and mixtures thereof.

13. (*canceled*)

14. (*currently amended*) A process according to Claim 11 wherein water is maintained in said mixture added in an amount of at least 1g per 1,000g of dicarboxylic acid during said process.

15. (*canceled*)

16. (*currently amended*) A process according to Claim 11 wherein the mixture dicarboxylic acid is heated to a temperature at least 5°C above ~~the~~ its melting point of the dicarboxylic acid.

17. (*previously presented*) A process according to Claim 12 wherein the dicarboxylic acid is hexanedioic acid.

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Claims 18 and 19 (canceled)

20. *(new)* A process according to Claim 11 wherein the chelant is a phosphonate chelant.

21. *(new)* A process according to Claim 20 wherein the phosphonate chelant is an aminophosphonate.

22. *(new)* A process for coating detergent tablets with a C₂-C₁₃ dicarboxylic acid, comprising the steps of:

i.) preparing a melt of said dicarboxylic acid comprising a level of water in said melt of at least 1g of water per 1000 g of dicarboxylic acid;

ii.) maintaining said level of water by adding at least 1g of water per 1000g of dicarboxylic per minute to said melt throughout said process; and

iii.) applying said melt to said tablets.

23. *(new)* A process according to Claim 22, wherein said dicarboxylic acid is a C₆-C₁₂ dicarboxylic acid.